Appointment of the Chief Scout Master.

42. ✻**Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have appointed a non-Travancorean as the Chief Scout Master;

(*b*) the date on which such appointment was made;

(*c*) the pay of that officer and his qualifications;

(*d*) whether the proposal to appoint such an officer was rejected by the Finance Committee; and

(*e*) the necessity for appointing such an officer?

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai: (*a*) No.

(*b*) to (*e*) These do not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

Construction of a road between Aruvikara and Vellanad.

43. ✻**Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was a proposal to construct a road between Aruvikara and Vellanad in the Nedumangad taluk;

(*b*) if the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, the stage at which the proposal is at present; and

(*c*) whether any estimate has been prepared for the construction of such a road, and, if so, the amount so estimated?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) Petitions and interpellations have been received for the road.

(*b*) Land plan and area list for the free surrender of the lands required for the road are under preparation.

(*c*) A rough estimate has been prepared by the Sub-Division Officer for Rs 6,000.

Scheme to prevent the annual floods in certain taluks.

44. ✻**Mr. N. V. Chacko**: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any scheme to control the annual floods in the taluks of Kunnatnad, Muvattupuzha and Parur and thus prevent or at least lessen the destruction of crops in these taluks?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Yes.

Mr. N. V. Chacko: May I know the nature of the scheme.

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Construction of a bund and two irrigation sluices across Kannakal thodu in Parur taluk. (2) Provision of flood bank and groyne in the thodu at Kuttiyal in Neyathodu in Kothakulangara pakuthy, Kunnatnad taluk. (3) Construction of a dam across Edapalli thodu (Chullicat Aur) and (4) Improving the road from Kaladi and flood banks.

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Re: (1) *viz*., the bund and sluices across Kannakal thodu an estimate is under preparation. For (2) the groynes have been put up and they serve the purpose of lessening the damages due to floods. With regard to others investigations have been conducted and detailed estimates are under preparation.

Mr. K. R. Elankath (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*): May I know the approximate cost for carrying out the scheme?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: The approximate cost can be ascertained only after the estimates have been prepared.

Smuggling in Travancore.

45. ❋ **Mr. N. V. Chacko**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether smuggling is still going on in Travancore;

(*b*) the kinds of articles smuggled into Travancore;

(*c*) the approximate time when smuggling into Travancore began;

(*d*) whether smuggling has been waxing or waning in Travancore;

(*e*) whether such waxing or waning has been regular in Travancore;

(*f*) what proportion of the population of each taluk in Travancore is engaged in smuggling;

(*g*) the kinds of articles smuggled into Travancore by the smugglers of each taluk;

(*h*) the reasons and causes which induce people to take to smuggling; and

(*i*) what steps the Government have been taking to prevent smuggling?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Tobacco and its preparations, and salt.

(*c*) There is no information.

(*d*) Smuggling is found to be waning.

(*e*) It cannot be said for certain whether waning is regular or irregular.

(*f*) No figures are available.

(*g*) Tobacco and its preparations, and salt.

(*h*) The reason which induces people to take to smuggling is mainly the abnormal gain obtained from the same.

(*i*) Strong preventive staff is posted to the frontiers for systematic patrol work. A posse of reserve police has been posted to the northern frontiers temporarily. There are also two C. I. D. Excise Inspectors to assist them.

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